

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

February 15, 2018 Minutes

In Attendance: 22

Craig Arthur, Eldon Baber, Anne Bloxom, Lisa Burke, Veronica Carpenter, Denise Churchill, Marcy Garfias, Jim Harte, Jenn Kinkel, Raina Lee, Susan Leibel, Tracy LeSage, Noreen Lubchenko, Brandy Miller, Mike Ryan, Jackelyne Sanchez, Denise Schleicher, Linda Smith, Marlene Telegadas, Aurelio Torre, Chana Warnock, Steve Yonemura

1. Introductions / Announcements

Introductions were made.

No announcements were made.

2. State Legislation/Budget – Brandy Miller

Update on legislative initiatives included the following:

Home Visiting Programs

- SB 426 Community Based Home Visitation Pilot - establish a pilot program in no more than three counties in the state to provide child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention services to families through one family resource center located in each county.
- AB 992 CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program - allocate funds to counties to provide voluntary case management and evidence-based home visiting services for CalWORKs clients who are either pregnant or first time parents of children up to two years of age.
- 2018/19 Budget Proposal CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative - the Governor proposes a program similar to AB 992 with the exception that it is a three year pilot, and not an ongoing program, funded at approximately \$159 million. Evidence-based home visiting services shall be offered for up to two years on a voluntary basis to CalWORKs clients residing in counties that opt-in to the program.

Child Development/Early Care

- AB 11 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program (EPSDT) - expand the EPSDT program to include early developmental screening services for individuals zero to three years of age using standardized and validated screening tools at the frequency recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- AB 1754 Pre-K for All Act of 2018 - provide all low-income four-year-old children from working families with access to early care and education programs.
- SB 837 Transitional Kindergarten for Four Year Olds - beginning in 2020–21 school year, allow younger 4-year-olds to be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by a school district or charter school until 2022–23 school year and each school year thereafter, require all 4-year-olds to be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by a school district or charter school.

Foster & Homeless Youth

- AB 2043 Foster Youth Response System - establish a response system for caregivers of current or former foster youth who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, or other needs that require immediate support. Include a statewide hotline in the response system to provide triage and, as appropriate, deploy a mobile and coordinated in-home response.
- AB 2083 Trauma-Informed System of Care - develop a coordinated and trauma informed system of care approach to better provide care for foster youth.
- AB 1406 Homeless Youth Housing Program - award grants to up to 10 recipients that demonstrate the ability to contract with service providers capable of providing housing assistance and supportive services to homeless youth ages 24 years and young with the goal of transitioning youth towards self-sufficiency. Requires 25 percent match funds.
- SB 918 Homeless Youth Act of 2018 - establish the Office of Homeless Youth to oversee and administer specified grant programs for young people experiencing homelessness and their families.

Dead Bills

- AB 824 Transitional Housing for Homeless Youth Grant Program
- SB 18 Bill of Rights for Children & Youth of CA
- SB 767 CSEC Foster Youth

3. ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve Minutes from January 18, 2018 Meeting

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 2018; seconded and passed.

4. RFA Recruitment Efforts and Challenges – Marlene Telegadas

Recruitment and training efforts continue. Focus has been branding and messaging for years. Continuing to message and brand through various social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter. Instagram will be used in near future. The focus of the campaign is to educate and engage community, the goal is to recruit loving and safe families. Campaign handouts were distributed. Sometimes fostering leads to adoption, so the County wants to prepare folks as much as possible. The County wants to help build support and long life connections to youth and their parents. The county's legal mandate is to reunify families, so fostering is the legal mandate. Under Resource Family Approval (RFA), a Resource Family completes a thorough approval process for foster care licensing, relative approval, and adoption approval. Once approved, there is no additional approval processes for permanent placement. Even though a family is approved to adopt, the goal is to reunify. The purpose of completing a review of a family early in process is to avoid a family forming a bond with a child and later not being approved for permanent placement. Approval of a Resource Family does not guarantee placement of a child. The county does a good job of telling the truth upfront. There is a huge demand for infants, but they are not always available. There was a question if recruitment efforts include high needs children. The county actively recruits for those families, however, it is not usually a typical family; generally it requires nurturing current Resource Families. There was a suggestion to focus on engaging current group homes that are transitioning to Short-term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). It was noted that there are specialized programs that

serve children with specific needs including Intensive Services Foster Care homes and Therapeutic Foster Care homes. Therapeutic foster homes will probably not happen this year. Under therapeutic foster homes, Resource Families will need to maintain notes to get Medi-Cal funding. Intensive services will use wraparound funding. There was a question about rates, if they had been approved. The state has had flat rates every year, but there are children that require more care. The age-based system will be replaced by a rate structure and based on the child or youth's needs. The state has a plan to roll out new rates, but they have been delayed. In April/May 2018, there is a planned rollout of higher rates for caregivers that have to do more, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Right now, the state provides the same rate for a child with no special needs vs. a child with more needs, but in April, the state will increase rates for those families. RFA is difficult since not only the RFA home has to be approved, but everyone in the home has to get approved. Now, the county is asking current foster homes if they want to go through FFAs to get RFA approved. The state revised some of the rules, hopefully that will streamline the process. Statute says the county will approve foster families in 90 days, and that is not happening. The goal is to manage backlog by June.

5. Update on CCR Forum – Mike Ryan

Mike Ryan asked if the group was still interested in holding a CCR Forum . There was a discussion on the intent of the CCR Forum. It was decided that this issue would be postponed another month to give it some thought.

6. Annual Conditions of Children's Report – Lisa Burke

The final forum was held on February 1, 2018 from 9-11a.m. at California State University Fullerton. The topic was children's mental health. There were 200+ people that attended including 50 students. The program included a keynote speaker (Dr. Lorry Leigh Belhumeur from Western Youth Services); a panel discussion including speakers representing early childhood, middle school, and high school; and a parent speaker who shared how she navigated through the system. A survey will be sent out to attendees and data results will be included at the first steering committee meeting in March/April to analyze data. The report Steering Committee meets monthly or as needed. If anyone is interested in participating on the committee this year, please contact Lisa. Mike Ryan suggested resurrecting the idea of making the conditions of children report interactive online and determining how it would look, how much it would cost, and how it would be funded.

7. Report from the Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) Continuum of Care Subcommittee – Veronica Zuniga

Jim Harte reported that continued efforts are placed to support group home providers in completing and submitting their STRTP program statement. Currently, three Orange County providers have submitted their programs to CDSS for approval. HCA Master Agreement has already been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The county is working with other group homes to prepare proposals. The group homes that started early are moving through process. County made every attempt to provide technical assistance, help with language, fill in blanks, etc.

8. Report from the Foster Family Agencies Continuum of Care (FFACCR) Subcommittee – Norean Lubchenko and Jim Harte

SSA's Master agreement for FFAs is scheduled to be approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 8, 2018. The county meets monthly with FFAs that want to participate. The county has active relationships with 40-60 FFAs. Many FFAs participate in quarterly forum. A tool kit was distributed by the state. The county has asked the state for assistance with intensive services. There is a scheduled webinar on February 27, 2018 with the state and eight south counties to share what is going well with Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) implementation. There was a question whether relative caregivers could be sent to the FFA Agency to complete the FRA approval process for the county. The state rules are that if county places child, the county has obligation to get them FFA approved. The county is exploring services for relatives. The county met with Casey Families on February 13, 2018 to discuss how the county can provide support and services to kin.

Mike Ryan stated that last year's goal was to support CCR. He questioned if they were at a point where staff is in place and OCCP group does not need a monthly report from staff. He suggested not reporting out anymore and instead having steering committees ask for support on certain issues. Eldon Baber commented that the standing updates are already shared through other meetings and there was no need for regular updates unless they are significant, and in that case, he recommended an update in writing. Susan Liebel suggested changing the frequency of reporting out to less so she can still disseminate updates to her group. Mike Ryan stated they would do quarterly updates in writing going forward. Next standing report out will be in three months (May 2018).

9. 2018 OCCP Areas of Focus/Goal – Mike Ryan

Mike Ryan asked if there were other issues to advocate for besides mental health issues. Denise Schleicher suggested a change to criteria for Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and mental health kids so they can have a safe place to go to (e.g. a cottage at Orangewood for CSEC). Others suggested a need for an interim place for children between Juvenile Hall, Orangewood, and the hospital since there is a gap on where to put kids. Another suggestion was to keep substance abuse kids out of delinquency and get treatment for youth that cannot be locked up. Mike Ryan asked Brandy Miller to work with Jim Harte and look at legislation on what is in place for locked facilities.

10. General Committee Member Comments:

Jim Harte mentioned Chairman Andrew Do's Mental Health Provider Forum on February 23 from 2-4p.m. Jim will forward information to Jackie Sanchez and she will share with group.

Public Comments:

Jenn Kinkel, member from the public, is a professor at Fullerton College and a foster parent. She stated she would seek Foster Parent membership for OCCP.

Next Meeting:

The OCCP will reconvene on March 15, 2018 at Probation Office Building.

Minutes taken by: Jackelyne Sanchez